

Hello Commissioner Clyburn,

We're Karen and Keva from Goose Creek, South Carolina. We thank you for the years of public service that you dedicated to our state. We're extremely proud of your success and happy that you're now in Washington. Your diligence and thoughtfulness is exactly what's needed to advance and protect our Nation's citizens.

The decisions your colleagues and you make directly impact the entertainment industry, and our livelihood. So as you can imagine, we're honored to share a little about who we are and what we do. We appreciate your willingness to listen to our concerns.

As Costumers and members of the IATSE Local 491, we currently work on the Disney/ABC Studios Lifetime series "Army Wives", which is filmed in Charleston, SC. Having worked in the film and television industry since 1992, we have been blessed to finally produce our own film. Though on a small scale, we have ambition and plans for more projects.

As we look ahead to avenues of distribution, we're excited about the Internet and feel an investment in its growth and accessibility is a good thing. The Internet is an important cost-saving marketplace that we look forward to exploring. Daily we rely on its technology and we appreciate the social and economic benefits it provides as it brings vendors and consumers together on a more equal competitive playing field.

However, there is a downside to its vastness; and that's what concerns us.

As the entertainment and media industry creates product and makes it available through the Internet, it's tough to maintain control over where the content is transmitted. Some material is willingly streamed for free; but some content, protected by a copyright, is meant for purchase and is intended to generate a residual income when viewed or listened to. This puts us in a vulnerable state as our material becomes subject to theft.

Without security, what we create is subject to be stolen. And stealing is illegal, in any form. As employees of a television production company, our health and welfare is jeopardized when the company's bottom line is affected by piracy. As independent filmmakers, we simply cannot compete if income we're praying for, hoping for or expecting vanishes due to people accessing our films and not paying for it.

As the FCC develops plans to promote access and the use of the Internet, we beg you to safeguard intellectual property by supporting Internet Service Providers and the film & entertainment industry in an effort to prevent, or at the least, minimize cyber crimes. Technology to protect us does exist but ISPs need permission to use it. A great starting point would be to strengthen copyright protection provisions of the Open Internet Order.

As a regulatory body member, we appreciate the authority, and rely on the protection ability that you and the other Commissioners hold. So please allow ISPs to implement ways to ensure that Internet consumers who access and use content created for sale, pay for it, or face legal consequences. Our future business success is dependent on a solution.

We realize you've got work to do; so we thank you, Commissioner Clyburn for taking the time to consider our plea. When you're back in Charleston, please let us know. We'd love for you to visit the set of "Army Wives". It would be an honor and our pleasure to give you a tour. The show has had a positive impact on the community that you've dedicated years to cultivate.

Thank you!

Most sincerely,
Karen & Keva Keyes